Raising prices of medicines by Drug Companies

4611. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that M/s. Hoechst and M/s. Carews have been frequently raising the prices of the various medicines produced by them causing lot of strain on the common man;

(b) if so, the details thereof, during the last three years;

(c) whether it is also a fact that both the companies are not passing the benefits of various concession like reduction in custom duty etc. to the common man and are also violating many other directions/instructions issued by Government regarding payment into DPEA; and

(d) if so ,the details thereof and what action Government propose to take against the above mentioned compnanies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) and (b) The prices of medicines under price control are fixed/revised by the Government whereas in regard to medicines not under price control, the concerned companies fix/revise their prices themselves with the intimation to the Government in the prescribed forms. If there are abnormal price increases in case of decontolled category, the Government intervenes for the same.

(c) and (d) One such case pertaining to M/s. Hoechst regarding not passing on the benefits of reduction in custom duty, had come to the notice of the Government, few months back. Government intervened and the company reduced the price of medicines giving impact of custom duty reduction.

Regarding liability into DPEA, M/s. Hoechest filed a writ petition in the Bombay High Court. The Bombay High Court framed a time bound schedule for furnishing the liability giving the hearing to the company and passing a final speaking order. The Company has been given a last and final opportunity to submit the requisite data.

Regarding M/s. Carews, it was noticed that the company was overcharging the price of Combiflam Tabs. between the period Nov., 1986 to August, 1989. A tentative liability of Rs. 7.11 crores has been calculated against this company for this period. The company filed writ petitions in the Calcutta High Court on this matter.

BICP's Recommendation on Bulk Drugs

4612. SHRI NYODEK YONGGAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of scheduled bulk drugs for which BICP is yet to recommended prices under DPCO, 1987;

(b) what are the names of bulk drugs in respect of which BICP have sent their recommendation on fair prices but decision on BICP report is yet to be taken;

(c) since when each of these reports is pending and what are the reasons for this pendency;

(d) what are the names of bulk drugs for which Government have received recommendations for revision of prices from 1st January to 30th June, 1992 and what are the details of price revision in each case; and

(e) what are the names of formulations for which Government announced ceiling prices during 1992 upto 31st July, 1992?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND

FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) The names of the bulk drugs for which BICP is yet to recommend the prices under DPCO, 1987 are given in the attached statement (*see* below).

(b) and (c) Regarding bulk drug Silver Sulphadiazine and Dexamethasone and its salts, the BICP have sent their recommendation on fair prices and the decision on BICP Reports is yet to be taken. Reports on these bulk drugs were received by this Deptt. in September, 1991 and July, 1992 respectively which are under examination.

(d) and (e) Price revisions keeping in view the escalation in costs of inputs and utilities is an on going process. As and when any application for price revision is received in the Department, the same is processed and decision is taken. The names of bulk drugs whose prices have been revised during the Period 1st January, 1992 to 17th July, 1992 have been given in the Annexure to Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1465 answered on 23rd July, 1992. The number of formulations based on such bulk drugs run into several hundreds. The time and labour involved in compiling the requisite details will not commensurate with the results likely to be achieved.

STATEMENT

Bulk Drugs for which BICP is yet to recommend prices under DPCO, 1987

S. No.	Bulk Drug
(1)	(2)
1.	Atropine
2.	Iodoxouridine
3.	Homatropin
4.	Pyremethamine
5.	Sulphamethopyrazine
6.	Cyproheptadine
7.	Carbamazepine
8.	Calcium Pentothenate
9.	Dipyridamole
10.	Ergometrine
11.	Griseofulvin
12.	Iron Dextran
13.	Isosorbide Dinitrate
14.	Ketoprofen
15.	Loperamide
16.	Oxythazine
17.	Pentazocine
18.	Piperazine
19.	Sulphamethizole
20.	Salazosulphapyrazine
21.	Sulphadoxine
22.	Triemterene
23.	Verapamil
24.	Neomycin
25.	Thicrodazine
26.	Amtriptyline
27.	Trifluperazine
28.	Triproledine
29.	Trimipramine
30.	Polymixin B. Sulphate
31.	Glopizid.
32.	Pyrithyldione
33.	Znic Bacitoocin
34.	Mit-omycin
35.	Tolnafatate
36.	Fluocinolone Acetonide
37.	Carbanicillin Sodium
38.	Oxyfedrine Hcl
39.	Hyoscine N-Butyl Bromide
40.	Triamcionolone
41.	Naproxon
42.	Pyrithioxine
43.	L-Dopa
44.	Norgesteral
45.	Ethisterone
46.	Carbenittclone
47.	Reserpine
48.	Amoxycillin
49.	(a) Ampicillin Trihydrate
49.	(b) Ampicillin Anhydrous
50.	Doxycyline
51.	Diphenoxylate
52.	Hydralazine

(1)	(2)
53. Met-oclopramide	
54. Nalidixic Acid	
55. Promethazine Hcl	
56. Metroprolol	
57. Chlorpromazine	
58. Timolol	
59. Imipramine	
60. Povidone Iodine	
61. Cimetidine	
62. Ranitidine.	

Revision of Prices of Eight Bulk Drugs

4613. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have recently revised the prices of eight bulk drugs;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether any of them relate to the treatment of various diseases under the National Health Programme, if so which ones, how this rise affects the prices of the end medicines required for these dieuses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) and (b) The Government has revised prices of the following 8 bulk drugs w.e.f. 27th July, 1992 :-

Name of the bulk drug	Previous price (Rs./Kg.)	Revised price (Rs./kg.)
Dextropropoxyphene (Jagson Pal)	1353.73	3345
Ampicillin Anhylerous	3341	3599
Ampicillin Sodium Starile	3653	4898
Amoxycillin Trihydrate	2922	3216
Pheniramine Maleate	726	845
Cloxacillin Sodium (oral grade)	2597	3206
Methyl Dopa	2434	3271
Ampicillin Trihydrate	2516	3098

(c) None of the above bulk drugs are listed for the treatment of various diseases under the National Health Programmes.

Reappointment of Officers of IDPL

4614. SHRIMATI SARALA MAHESHWARI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1964 given in the Rajya Sabha on 14th May, 1992 and state:

(a) whether reappointments/extensions to the said officers were in contravention of the orders of the Prime Minister of February, 1993;

(b) whether those orders are still operative as certified by the Ministry of Industry; and

(c) whether Government propose to take a strict view of dis-respect shown by IDPL to the directives of the Prime Minister and censure all the officials involved in this impropriety?